

## **ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM**

The presence of animals at school can provide a valuable learning experience for students but cannot be allowed to endanger other student's safety or disrupt learning. There must be a clear instructional or therapeutic purpose for keeping an animal in a school classroom. Thus, maintaining an animal in a classroom merely as a classroom pet is forbidden. Any animal brought to school must be caged or leashed with prior permission obtained from the Academic Administrator.

Students or staff having allergic reactions to animal fur must be provided a learning and workplace environment free from these allergens. Animals causing allergic reactions in students or staff must be removed from the campus. Animals and their cages must be cleaned and maintained consistently. Animals that demonstrate aggressive tendencies, emit noxious odors, or create unsanitary conditions will not be allowed on campus.

The ESD does not permit animals to be taken on their vehicles, so parents must arrange transportation for the animal to and from school. For charter buses, permission is subject to contract with the bus provider. Additionally, students accessing local school district transportation are subject to that district's transportation policies.

The use of service animals (e.g. Hearing Ear Dogs) are not subject to the restrictions in this policy. Restricting the presence of service animals on campus is subject only to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, its implementing regulations, and pertinent case law decisions.

**Adoption Date: 03/11/04**